

We claim:

1. Use of nanoscalar water soluble β -(1,3) glucans, which are substantially free from β -(1,6) linkages and have particle diameters in the area of 10 to 300 nm, for producing cosmetic and/or pharmaceutical preparations.

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2. Use according to claim 1, wherein glucans based on yeasts of the family *Saccharomyces* are used.

3. Use according to claim 1, wherein glucans are used which have been obtained by contacting glucans with β -(1,3) and β -(1,6) linkages in such a way with β -(1,6) glucanases that practically all β -(1,6) linkages are loosened, whereafter the lysis products are brought into a nanoscalar form.

4. Use according to claim 3, wherein glucans are used which have been treated with glucanases based on *Trichoderma harzianum*.

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5. Use according to claim 1, wherein nano particles which are embedded in a protecting colloid are used.

6. Use according to claim 5, wherein polyvinyl alcohol or polyethyten glycol are used as protecting colloid.

7. Use according to claim 1, wherein the glucans are used in amounts of 0,1 to 5 % by weight, based on the preparations.

8. Use according to claim 1, wherein the glucans are used for manufacture of hair care agents.

9. Use according to claim 1, wherein the glucans are used for manufacture of skin care and sun protecting agents.